

Serial No.: 10/821,933
Docket No.: 101-1029
Amendment dated October 11, 2006
Reply to the Office Action of August 22, 2006

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment, claims 1-15 and 17-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1-15, 17-21, and 28 are allowed. By this Amendment, claims 29-31 are added. No new matter is being presented. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims are requested.

A. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1-15, 17-21, and 28 are allowed and that claims 23-27 contain allowable subject matter.

B. §102(e) Rejection Over Kameyama

The Office Action rejects claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kameyama (U.S. Patent No. 7,046,941). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Referring to Figs. 9-11 and 20 of Kameyama, the Examiner asserts that Kameyama's front cover 16, side covers 93, and document pressing cover 83 correspond to first through fourth doors as recited in claim 22. However, Kameyama's side covers 93 are not doors to open a top, bottom, or side of Kameyama's image forming apparatus. In contrast, Kameyama's side covers 93 are merely members mounted to sides of the main body frame 2 of Kameyama's image forming apparatus. See Kameyama at col. 17, lines 24-27, and Figs. 9 and 10. In other words, although Kameyama describes and illustrates that the cover members 93 are mounted to the sides of the image forming apparatus, Kameyama does not disclose that the cover members 93 open the sides of the image forming apparatus. Furthermore, Kameyama's document pressing cover 83 also is not a door to open a top, bottom, or side of Kameyama's image forming apparatus. In contrast, Kameyama's document pressing cover 83 merely opens with respect to a document table 82 to permit the copying of a document. See Kameyama at col. 18, lines 2-7, and Figs. 11 and 12. In other words, although Kameyama describes and illustrates that the document pressing cover 83 "opens" (i.e., can be raised to reveal the document table 82), Kameyama does not disclose that the document pressing cover 83 opens the top of the image forming apparatus (since the document table 82 is never opened).

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Accordingly, Kameyama does not disclose, among other things, "first through fourth doors provided to open left, top, front and right sides of a housing of the electrophotographic printer," as recited in claim 22.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Kameyama does not disclose every limitation of claim 22. Accordingly, claim 22 is not anticipated by Kameyama and is therefore patentable over Kameyama. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

C. Claim Objections

Claims 23-27 are objected to for depending from rejected claim 22. However, for at least the reasons discussed above in Section B, claim 22 is patentable over Kameyama and the rejection of claim 22 should thus be withdrawn. Accordingly, upon withdrawal of the rejection of claim 22, claims 23-27 would not longer depend from a rejected claim. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

D. New Claims

Support for new claims 29-31 can be found throughout the original specification and drawings, such as at Figs. 12-15. Claim 29 is patentable over Kameyama at least because Kameyama does not disclose, teach, or suggest first through fourth doors each rotatably installed on an electrophotographic printer. Claim 30 is patentable over Kameyama at least because Kameyama does not disclose, teach, or suggest that each of first through fourth doors includes a hinge and that each of the first through fourth doors is rotatable around the corresponding hinge to be moved between an open position and a closed position. Claim 31 is patentable over Kameyama at least because Kameyama does not disclose, teach, or suggest first through fourth doors that open to provide access to an interior of an electrophotographic printer.

E. Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, there being no other objections or rejections, this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

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If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 502827.

Respectfully submitted,

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